

## GRANTING STATE LANDS.

## COMMISSIONERS AWAITING THE RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR.

ASTORIA COMPANY'S APPLICATION DEFENDS ON THE DECISION WHETHER TO SELL OR LEASE STATE PROPERTY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Oct. 27.—The members of the Land Board are awaiting a return of Governor Roosevelt before coming to a decision on the application of Tracy, Boardman & Platt, as counsel for the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company, for the sale to that corporation of sixteen and one-half acres of the State's land along the East River at Astoria, Queens' County. All that the appraisers—John G. Deubert, of Brooklyn, and George Bingham, of Erie County—think the entire sixteen and one-half acres are worth is \$3,500. Mr. Deubert estimates that some land on the Hill Van Kull is worth \$600 per acre. Probably the Hill Van Kull lot is more favorably situated. Nevertheless, it is rated so high that there is fear lest Mr. Deubert and Mr. Bingham may have innocently set too low a value on the lands described by the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company at Astoria. There is apprehension, in other words, that \$300 an acre at Astoria is not sufficient compensation for the State.

There also will come up before the Land Board the question of whether these lands desired by the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company shall be sold outright to that corporation or leased to it. The corporation desires to buy the land. That is what Tracy, Boardman & Platt are pressing. No lease has been asked for by them. The attitude of Secretary of State McConaughay and Attorney General Davies in favoring the leasing of such lands and not their sale, however, is not new. That has been their position in the Land Board since February last, and they frequently have supported by Controller Morgan. Mr. Morgan has taken the position that no hard and fast rule can be adopted in such cases, and that each application for such lands must be considered separately. In some cases, it is evident from his votes in the Land Board, he considers it the better policy to lease such lands and not sell them.

## TO LEASE OR SELL LAND.

Attorney General Davies said to-day: "I am glad that Governor Roosevelt has had his attention called to this subject of the lease or the sale of the State's lands, and has written a letter which, indirectly at least, supports those members of the Board of Land Commissioners, like myself, who for six months past have been steadily voting in favor of leasing the State's lands under water and not of selling them, in the hope of getting more money for the State from this course."

Inquiry today revealed the fact that Tracy, Boardman & Platt filed their four applications for land for the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company with the Land Board as far back as March of the present year. At that time Assembeiman Maser was attempting to pass in the Legislature a bill authorizing the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company to construct a tunnel beneath the East River, in which to place gas pipes, through which it intended to force gas from Astoria to Manhattan Island for the use of the 438 companies of that island. The bill passed the Assembly, but failed to pass the Senate.

The members of the Land Board on May 4 referred both Mr. Burke's letter and that of Tracy, Boardman & Platt to the committee of the Board of Engineers, secretary of the Department of State, Albany, New York, announcing that the Board protested against the granting of a permit authorizing the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company to construct a tunnel beneath the East River, in which to place gas pipes, through which it intended to force gas from Astoria to Manhattan Island for the use of the 438 companies of that island. The bill passed the Assembly, but failed to pass the Senate.

Soon after Tracy, Boardman & Platt filed their application the Board received a letter from William C. Burke, secretary of the Department of State, Albany, New York, announcing that the Board protested against the granting of a permit authorizing the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company to construct a tunnel beneath the East River, in which to place gas pipes, through which it intended to force gas from Astoria to Manhattan Island for the use of the 438 companies of that island. The bill passed the Assembly, but failed to pass the Senate.

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In view of this report the Land Board has proceeded with the consideration of the Astoria company's application in the usual manner. On August 23 State Engineer Bond reported that the granting of 184 acres would be within the limit of the bill, notwithstanding navigation.

Finally yesterday the appraisers of Controller Morgan, George Bingham and John G. Deubert submitted to the Land Board at its meeting their appraisals of the 16 acres desired by the Astoria company, and the representative of Tracy, Boardman & Platt asked that the grant be made. The application of Tracy, Boardman & Platt was tabled in executive session, however, because of the points taken previously by the Board, and the Land Board decided that such lands as were desired should be leased instead of sold, and secondly, because Governor Roosevelt in a letter intimated that the question of leasing instead of selling the State's lands might well be considered by the Land Board.

## CLERGEMAN HANGED IN TEXAS.

Dallas, Tex., Oct. 27.—The Rev. G. E. Morrison was hanged at 12 o'clock to-day at Vernon for wife murder. Morrison's neck was broken, and his death appeared to be painless. The crime for which Morrison was held the death penalty was the poisoning of his wife in October, 1897. The facts showed that for deliberate finishness the deed was almost without a parallel in the annals of criminal jurisprudence. After the poisoning was to rid himself of a pretty, amiable, loving wife in order to marry a wealthy woman.

## Religious Notices.

A.—A. M. METHODIST CHURCH, 7th-ave. and 14th-st., Rev. J. C. CADMAN, D. D., Pastor.—Harvest Festival. The Pastor will preach morning and evening. Lenten choir will sing in unison. Altar decorations. All services except every night. Concert free every Saturday night.

ALL ANGELS' CHURCH, West End-ave. and 5th-st., Rev. S. DE LANCEY TOWNSEND, Ph. Dr., Pastor.—Holy Communion, 8 a. m. Morning prayer and sermon by Rev. S. M. Full, choral evensong, 4 p. m. Strangers welcome.

ALL SOULS' CHURCH, Madison-ave. and 69th-st., Rev. R. H. NEWTON, D. D., Pastor.—Wednesday evenings at 8 p. m. All welcome.

ALL WELCOME.—THE WASHINGTON SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH, 4th-ave. and 20th-st., Rev. THOMAS R. SLICER, Pastor.—Rev. WILLIAM H. PULFORD will preach at 11 a. m. The public cordially invited.

AT REFORMED CATHOLIC SERVICES IN CHURCHES MISSING No. 142 West 21st-st., evening, 7 p. m. Rev. JAMES A. O'CONNOR, Pastor, preaches subject "The Only High Priest." Peter's Pence for the Poor. All invited.

AT SCOTT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 96th-st., Central Park West, Rev. DR. VIVILLE, Rev. ALBERT GALTZ, Associate Pastor preaches 11 a. m. Sabbath evenings. 24. Vocal music class Monday evenings. All welcome.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE TRIBUNE received at their Uptown Office, No. 1242 Broadway, 24 door north of 125th-st., and at the following branch offices:

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